far as the other question is concerned, whether we have examined the economics of saving the foreign exchange in importing scrap, hon. Member will be happy to know that we have already taken steps to import scrap from U.S.S.R. We are also trying to use as less scrap as possible. The latest technology available in the world is that we can have 75 per cent to 80 per cent sponge iron, and 20 to 25 per cent scrap. We have asked mini-steel plants also to move towards modernisation. If sponge iron is produced in the country for which we have delicensed, the industry, anybody anywhere in the country can start a sponge iron unit which can be used as a substitute for scrap. We are at it and I can assure the hon. Member that in future, there will be no difficulty.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question

Development of Multi-lingual Character Generator

*282. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Doordarshan Kendra, Madras have jointly developed a Multi-lingual Character Generator;

(b) whether the equipment was successfully tested nearly 20 months ago at Doordarshan Kendra, Madras and it was witnessed by the then Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting;

(c) whether the Computer was demonstrated before the Prime Minister in Delhi on May 22, 1986 and that he had promised all help for improving upon the equipment;

(d) whether Government had also assured in September, 1987 to sanction more than Rs. 35 lakhs for demonstrating the technology in two Doordarshan Kendras but failed to release any amount;

(e) if so, what are the reasons for not giving adequate encouragement to the tele-computer project; and

(f) the reasons for which the multilingual character-generator which was in service in Madras Doordarshan till the middle of 1986 was not further used.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) ,(b) and (f) The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras developed a multi-lingual computer based charater generator which was interfaced with the TV system at Doordarshan Kendra, Madras for some time for experimentation. It was found that the equipment did not conform to professional broadcast standards. The deficiencies were explained by officers of Doordarshan to officers of IIT, Madras.

(c) No, Sir. What was shown to the Prime Minister was the video to tape containing out put of the equipment. Help was assured for improving the equipment.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Assistance was assured for improvement of the equipment but for that IIT, Madras was required to send to the Department of Electronics a specific research and development proposal, which has not been sent so far.

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Sir, the IIT Madras and Doordarshan Madras jointly developed a computer system for sub-titling any programme in 14 languages, and still it remains unutilised. This system facilitates the non-Hindi-speaking audience to enjoy the Hindi programmes as well. It worked in Madras Door-

darshan for 1/1|2 years and the Character Generator was brought to Delhi Doordarshan for demonstration. May I know from the hon. Minister how much time it will take to utilise this system of Character Generator so that sub-titles can be given to all regional languages so that people in various States will enjoy your programmes in Hindi, and how much time the Government will take to decide?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I would like to tell the hon. Member that the Government is quite keen that we should have such a system whereby our programmes can be subtitled in different languages Now, this system which has been devised by Prof. Shukla of IIT, Madras, has been considered at various levels, at very high levels and considered very seriously. Two other system have been devised one by IIT, Kanpur and the other by the Department of Electronics. Of these systems, his system is more expensive, is larger and requires many things which are being considered. He was asked to send detailed proposals to the Department of Electronics which he has not done so far. We are very keen to have it quickly. All the three systems are being evaluated and we are very keen that we should do it. I assure the hon. Member that I shall give personal attention to this though the Department of Electronics is dealing with this.

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHAN RAO: Madam, it seems, a strong lobby is working against this system which has been devised by IIT, Madras. Is it not a fact that orders were given to an electronics company of Gujarat for this system bypassing the Madras IIT?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Madam, there is no such lobboying, no such thing. Gujarat Electronics Limited have developed certain things. Others have developed. But the idea is not to keep the Madras IIT out. It is a national institute. The only idea is to evaluate the various systems. The idea is that we should have a system which is quicker, which is better and which is workable.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: In the answer, the hon. Minister has said that it was found tha the equipment did not conform to professional broadcast standards. May I, therefore, know from the hon. Minister, what are the professional broadcast standards and type of equipment is used at present which conforms to our standards? Secondly, I would like to know whether this multi-lingual computerbased character generator is used in the country, whether imported or indigenous.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Madam, this particular system developed by Prof. Shukla was used by the Madras Kendra only on an experimental basis. We are very happy with the work of this eminent scientist and we have been giving all encouragement to him to develop this system. However, during the experimental evaluation, it was found that improvement was required in the access time. In other words, the equipment in its present stage of development is somewhat sluggish, operationally a little cumbersome. It does not have the preview facility, that is; the next page could not be seen in advance before telecasting. Subtitling facilities have not been developed. Only character generation has been developed. The resolution of the character was not up to the mark. Therefore, these are the types of, I would not say deficiencies, but areas where further improvement is required. The eminent scientist has been advised about our requirement and he was also asked to give a detailed project report to the Department of Electronics. They have also agreed, in principle, that about Rs. 35 lakhs would be made available for development, of the system.

Madam, subtitling facilities have not been developed by Doordarshan. We are now conceptualising detailed schemes for developing such facilities. Such equipment is not in use anywhere in the country in the Doordarshan network.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: You have not answered my question. What are the professional broadcast standards?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I have answered the question. These are character generators. There is no professional standard as such...

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Not pertaining to the charater generator only. You have said that the equipment did not conform to professional broadcast standards. I would like to know, what are the professional broadcast standards.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: We stick to the answer. These are in a state of development and they do not satisfy the standards required by us. Standards are not laid down specifically. But the resolution of the characters the speed with which characters can be produced etc. were not satisfactory.

Setting up of a TV Transmitter at Fazilka

*283. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:†

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to set up a ten KW High Power TV Transmission Centre at Fazilka in Punjab; if so, what is the present stage of the proposal and by when it is likely to be commissioned;

(b) whether land for this purpose has been acquired; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan Programmes are not received in the border areas of the country, particularly in Punjab, and that Pakistani Television Programmes are more popular there than those of Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to expedite the setting up of the proposed TV Transmission Centre at Fazilka and also what steps have been taken to strengthen Doordarshan network there and to introduce popular programmes, in order to check the cultural invasion of Pakistani Television?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The scheme for the establishment of a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter at Fazilka in Punjab has been recently added to the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan. Site for this transmitter has not yet been identified. The normal lead time for completion of projects of this nature is about three years after commencement of works at the site.

(c) No, Sir. Domestic TV service is available in large parts of the border areas in the country including those in Punjab. It is, however, a fact that foreign TV signals are also received in some parts of the border areas. On the other hand, there are also reports that people living on the other side of the border watch Indian TV programmes.

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.